1		2	3	4
(b)	No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1248	1160	1207
(c)	No. of employees dismissed/discharged removed	360	301	331

Withdrawal from deposit accounts through forged instruments fradulent encashment of negotiable instruments by opening accounts in fictitious names, misappropriation through manipulation books of accounts, frauds in clearing transactions, misuse/ovestepping of lending/discretionary power and frauds in foreign exchage by providing fake import bills etc. are some of the methods used in perpetration of the frauds.

The Public Sector Banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the RBI.

Fiscal Deficit

*154. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the fisoal deficit has been reduced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a source of International Monetary Fund has stated that India's fiscal deficit is likely to remain too large; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Govemment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The fiscal deficit of the Government of India which was 7.4% of GDP in 1993-94 was reduced to 6.1%, 5.5% and 5.0% of GDP in the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (RE) respectively.

(b) IMF, after consultation with India in July, 1997 have noted that while India's overall economic performance had remained broadly favourable, the targeted reduction of fiscal deficit in 1997-98 might be difficult to achieve if the anticipated revenue receipt did not materialise.

(c) The fiscal deficit in 1997-98 (BE) is estimated at 4.5% of GDP. Government would endeavour to contain the fiscal deficit by increasing receipts and restricting expenditure.

Anti-Dumping Duty

*155. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Commission has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of cotton-type bed lines and unbleached cotton grey fabrics from India at the highest duty of 27.3% in comparison with the import duty from Pakistan at the rate of 8.2%;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on export of the said Product;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with European Commission; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Eurpoean Commission (EC) has decided to impose provisional anti-dumping duties at rates ranging from 3.9% to 27.3% on the imports of cotton type bed linen orginating in India and at the rates ranging from 6.5% to 8.2% on those from Pakistan. The provisional anti-dumping duties have come into effect from 13th June, 1997 for a period of six months. These measures have adverse impact on Indian exports, as the bed linen is an important constituent of our Textile exports to European Union market.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has taken this matter with the European Union through the Indian Embassy but no response has been received so far.

Dumping of Surplus Waste

*156. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign countries are indulging in dumping the toxic-waste, electronic graphite etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder investigates into the allegations of dumping in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The recommendations of the Designated Authority are announced by way to Gazette Notifications and are appealable before the Customs, Excise, Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

The Designated Authority has not received any complaint with regard to dumping of toxic waste and electronic graphite. The Designated Authority has, however, received a petition alleging dumping of graphite electrodes from USA, China PR

and Europe, and the case is under investigation. The Authority has announced preliminary findings, recommending impostion of anti dumping duties, provisionally, the details of which are given below :

Products originating in or exported from	Name of the exporter	Size of the graphite electrode	Amount Duty (Rs. per MT)
Germany	a) SGL Carbon AG	28"-30"	NIL
		22"-26"	9021
		All other sizes	20933
	b) Exporters other than above	All sizes	20933
France	Any exporter	All sizes	29695
Italy	Any exporter	All sizes	21645
Austria	Any exporter	All sizes	27347
Spain	Any exporter	All sizes	17125
Belgium	Any exporter	All sizes	16918

Appointment of Judges

*157. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken and important decision to reverse the guidelines of the Supreme Court of 1993 regarding appointment of judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of this decision on general public and independence of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Government decided to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts. The Government felt it necessary to amend the Constitution to reiterate and spell out the intent of the framers of the Constitution clearly and unambiguously with a view to keep it beyond the pale of any controversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 was ciruclated to members of the Lok Sabha in March, 1997.

(c) The provision of the draft bill evoked a mixed response from Members of Parliament, legal and constitutional experts and other public figures. These reactions are being considered by the Government.

As of now, the statuts quo has been maintained since 1993 in the matter of appointment and transfer of judges.

Regional Imbalances

*158. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liberalisation has only accentuated the regional imbalances in the country;

(b) if not, the parameters to show that the regional imbalances have declined; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The information on economic indicators at the regional level is not being centrally maintained. However, data on per capita Net State Domestic Product in the pre liberalised period (1990-91) and 1993-94 do not indicate any accentuation in regional imbalances in the country across the states. With the industrial delicensing under the new Industrial Policy, locational decisions are left to the commercial perception of individual investors.

Export of Granite

*159. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries to which granite is being exported at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to impose restriction on export of granite;

(c) if so, by when;